

Mansion House & Mayoralty Advisory Group

7 July 2010

Report of the Head of Civic Democratic & Legal Services

Mansion House and York Archaeology Trust Partnership Working

Summary

1. This report aims to set out the work that has been carried out to date between the Mansion House (MH) and York Archaeological Trust (YAT)

Background

2. The Lord Mayor is the Honorary president of YAT for their year in office, which has fostered close ties between the two.
3. 2007 Viking festival tours of the MH were held to coincide with the festival and to give them a festival theme
4. 2009, The main impetus came when Alderman Hall first proposed closer working ties between the YAT and the MH and in particular YAT to provide their assistance and expertise in the sector. Since then a number of meetings, planning and events have taken place. Thank you is specifically due to Alderman Hall, John Walker and Sarah Maltby for establishing the relationship.

Consultation

5. Relevant discussions took place between CYC officers and YAT senior staff to establish if the working relationship would be mutually beneficial.

Options

6. There are no specific options for the Advisory Group relating to this report, which is purely to keep the Group informed of the valuable work emerging from the relationship between the Mansion House and YAT.

Analysis

7. This section will highlight the breadth of work that has been carried out between the two organisations to date, and future collaborative work.
8. Events to date have included:

- The English Civil War events, which also included a day long event at the Mansion House where visitors could see original Civil War artefacts provided by York Museums Trust and Fairfax House and costumed re-enactors were on hand to chat to visitors about life in that period.
- Behind the scenes tours, Scandinavian story telling and lectures on Viking hoard and boat burial took place during the Viking festival. Behind the scenes tours and the lectures were well attended, the lectures in fact had to be moved to the Guildhall due to so many people wanting to attend.
- 25th Anniversary of Yorvik celebration book launch in the MH, where visitors could see some of the finds on display and conservation staff were available to talk to visitors.
- An afternoon of lectures based on battles of War of the Roses coincided with the reopening of Micklegate Bar.
- Lord Mayors Easter Egg Hunt, which started at the MH and took in all the YAT attractions. This was incredibly successful with the MH welcoming over 450 adults and children that day. A similar event is planned for next Easter.

9. Future planned events include:

- Dining through the ages, as part of the food and drink festival. This will involve Barley Hall as well as the MH and guests will sample medieval, Tudor, Georgian and Victorian dishes in two Mayoral houses.
- Candlelight tours and spooky stories over the Halloween period.
- Christmas events, which could include Dickensian themed evenings and associated Christmas events. Perhaps with the MH letter box being used again as the place children can drop letters to father Christmas.
- YAT are aware that the MH and Guildhall are available to be used for various events throughout the year depending on diary commitments.
- 2012, 800 years of local democracy, tentative approaches have been made to YAT and to conduct an archaeological excavation around the Guildhall.

10. **Educational sessions:** These are planned to start in September and will include Meet the Lord Mayor, 'You Rang My Lord' and Jane Austen dance classes. Each session will last an hour. Preparation for these sessions is currently taking place and interest has already been shown in the dance class activity. Each of the sessions are linked to the national Curriculum.

In particular the Meet the Lord Mayor sessions are aimed at engaging children in local democracy and give the children an understanding of the role of the Lord Mayor and the council. Children will see the MH some items of regalia, i.e. the Sword and mace, children can also dress in a miniature Lord Mayors Robe.

Your lord sessions are based on the experiences of domestic houses. Children will learn napkin folding, laying of the tables, cleaning EPNS silver and sugar sculpture. The children will be able to set the dining room table at the MH. A resource pack is currently being developed that will include examples of original menus from the MH.

The Jane Austen dance classes are due to take place in the state room with costumed and trained dance instructors. Children will learn the etiquette and learn some historic dances.

11. Assistance has also been given by YAT to use their booking facilities for visitors to the MH for the weekly tours which should increase the visitor foot fall to the MH.
12. **Civic Swords:** YAT have used their expertise in conservation to repair and conserve the Sigismund sword. This important piece of regalia's hilt was in need of attention, the work has been carried out under the supervision of YAT conservation staff and the result is that the sword looks magnificent. The Bowes sword is due shortly to undergo the same treatment at YAT.

YAT advice is also being sought on the condition of the City Mace and the mosaic floor in the Guildhall.

Corporate Priorities

13. The scope of the work being carried out by YAT and the MH enables many of the corporate priorities to be included, these are;

Thriving city, improve economic activity and tourism through increasing visitor numbers.

Inclusive City, through the events and educational sessions a greater number of residents and visitors do and will have access to the Mansion house

City of Culture, Visitors and residents can enjoy a broad range of high quality events and educational sessions based at the MH.

Learning City, increase learning opportunities possible at the MH for residents and visitors. The educational activities are based on the National Curriculum.

Healthy City, able to provide historic based dance activities for children in the Stateroom.

Implications

14.

- **Financial**, Income generation through increased events and educational activities. There will also be a positive raised profile and awareness for the MH which should contribute financially.
- **Human Resources (HR)** CYC staff to support the events/organisation. Support will also come from YAT staff.
- **Equalities**, events and educational sessions allow greater use of the MH and therefore increased accessibility to all residents and visitors.
- **Legal**, no known implications
- **Crime and Disorder**, no known implications
- **Information Technology (IT)** N/A to CYC, YAT provide the booking systems
- **Property**. no known implications
- **Other** - no known implications

Risk Management

15. Risks of not having this working relationship with YAT is that, with the current level of resources, the Mansion House could not facilitate these events and educational sessions effectively on their own.

Recommendations

16. Members are asked to note the continuing productive relationship between YAT and the Mansion House, offering wide ranging support to the Mansion House.

Reason: To keep the Advisory Group informed of the valuable work emerging from the relationship between the Mansion House and YAT.

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Date 29/06/10

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Report Approved

Date *Insert Date*

Specialist Implications Officer(s) *None*

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None